

Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 /135 W

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P 260902Z SEP 74

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1813

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

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AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY

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CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/

TAGS: PINS, PFOR,SF

SUBJECT: POLICE BREAK UP PRO-FRELIMO RALLY AND ARREST

PROMINENT DURBAN EDITOR

REF: DURBAN 344

1. SUMMARY: POLICE FOREFULLY DISPERSED ATTEMPTED PRO-FRELIMO RALLY IN DURBAN SEPTEMBER 25 PLANNED BY TWO BLACK POWER GROUPS IN OPEN DEFIANCE SPECIFIC GOVERNMENT BAN. ALSO ARRESTED EDITOR LEADING DURBAN NEWSPAPER FOR PUBLICIZING RALLY. INCIDENT INDICATIVE STRONG IMPACT WHICH FRELIMO SUCCESSES IM MOZAMBIQUE ARE HAVING ON LOCAL NON-WHITES AND AND THEIR GROWING MILITANCY.

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2. LATE AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 25 POLICE EMPLOYED BATONS

AND DOGS TO DISPERSE ESTIMATED 1000-1500 PERSONS ATTEMPTING ATTEND "FRELIMO SOLIDARITY RALLY" IN DURBAN CALLED BY SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENT ORGANIZATION (SASO) AND BLACK PEOPLES CONVENTION (BPC). TWO ORGANIZATIONS HAD PROCEEDED WITH PLANS FOR MEETING IN OPEN DEFIANCE SPECIFIC SAG BAN BY MINISTER OF JUSTICE UNDER RIOTOUS ASSEMBLIES ACT (REFTEL).

3. ACCORDING TO EYE WITNESS ACCOUNTS, SCORES OF YOUNG PEOPLE, MOSTLY AFRICANS, WERE INJURED AND BITTEN IN PANIC WHICH FOLLOWED POLICE BATON CHARGES AND USE OF DOGS OUTSIDE STADIUM WHERE RALLY WAS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD (IRONICALLY EVEN POLICE OFFICER COMMANDING ACTION HAD TO BE TREATED IN HOSPITAL FOR DOG BITE WOUNDS). POLICE ACTION FOLLOWED SINGING AND CHANTING OF BLACK POWER AND PRO-FRELIMO SLOGANS BY CROWD AND REFUSAL HEED REPEATED ORDERS TO DISPERSE. UNDETERMINED NUMBER WERE ARRESTED, INCLUDING MANY SASO/BPC LEADERS DURING SUBSEQUENT SWOOP ON HEADQUARTERS OF THOSE ORGANIZATIONS.

4. LATER IN EVENING J.M.W. O'MALLEY, EDITOR OF LOCAL ARGUS PAPER, DAILY NEWS, WAS ARRESTED WHILE ATTENDING PARTY AT LEADING DURBAN HOTEL. HE WAS CHARGED UNDER RIOTOUS ASSEMBLIES ACT FOR "ADVERTISING" PLANNED RALLY BY PRINTING NEWS STORY IN AFTERNOON EDITIONS TO EFFECT SASO AND BPC WERE DETERMINED PROCEED WITH PLANS DESITE GOVERNMENT BAN. AFTER SEVERAL HOURS QUESTIONING AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS O'MALLEY WAS RELEASED ON BAIL. ACCORDNG TO STATEMENT BY MINISTER JUSTICE KRUGER, ARREST RECEIVED HIS PRIOR APPROVAL; AUTHORITIS WERE CONSIDERING POSSIBLE ARREST OF OTHER ARGUS EDITORS WHO SED OFFENDING NEWS STORY.

5. COMMENT: GATHERING BY SUCH UNEXPECTEDLY LARGE CROWD FOR A PRO-FRELIMO RALLY--IN OPEN AND RISKY DEFIANCE OF SPECIFIC GOVERNMENT BAN--FURTHER INDICATION OF MANNER IN WHICH FRELIMO SUCCESSES JUST OVER NATAL BORDER HAVE CAUGHT IMAGINATION OF NON-WHITES IN THIS AREA. IT ALSO CLEAR PROTENT OF RAPIDLY RISING MILITANCY WHICH SUCH BLACK POWER ORGANIZATIONS AS SASO AND BPC AND OTHERS WILL CONTINUE TO EXPLOIT. TREMENDOUS PUBLICITY GIVEN BY PRESS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND EVEN GOVERNMENT RADIO TO THOSE ORGANIZATIONS' ROLE IN ABORTED RALLY, TOGETHER WITH ARRESTS OF LEADERS, WILL UNDBOUTEDLY GIVE ADDED FILLIP TO THEIR POWER.

ARREST OF SCIALY PROMINENT AND WELL KNOWN EDITOR OF DAITY NEWS HAS SENT SHOCK WAES THROUGH DURBAN ESTABLISHMENT. MOVE CONSTITUTES ANOTHER BLOW TO ALREADY CIRCUMSCRIBED FREEDOM OF PRESS AND WILL NOT GO UNNOTICED IN OTHER

EDITORIAL OFFICES.
HOLMES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL REPRESSION, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, MINORITIES, EDITORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974DURBAN00347
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740271-0520
From: DURBAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740912/aaaaakbd.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: DURBAN 344
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <12 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLICE BREAK UP PRO-FRELIMO RALLY AND ARREST PROMINENT DURBAN EDITOR
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, SF, FRELIMO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005